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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/863,178	05/23/2001	Don Organ	56335-017 (LTXL-117)	9637

7590 12/03/2002

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EXAMINER

BARAN, MARY C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2857

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/863,178

Applicant(s)

ORGAN ET AL.

Examiner

Mary Kate B Baran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:
 - (a) Claim 1, line 13, and claim 8 line 12, the phrase "associated the command" should be –associated with the command—.
 - (b) Claim 2, line 2, the term "commands" should be –command—.
 - (c) Claim 4, line 1, the phrase "wherein the sequentially" should be –wherein sequentially—.
 - (d) Claim 7, line 2 and claim 11 line 2, the phrase "related to DUT" should be –related to the DUT—.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-3, 5, and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Neisch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,319).

Referring to claim 1, Neisch et al. discloses a method of sequentially connecting one or more testing devices to I/O ports of a DUT through a switching network, so as to execute a predetermined testing procedure associated with the DUT (see Neisch et al., column 3 lines 17-26), comprising: switching network map defining one or more connections within the switching network necessary to implement each of a plurality of electrical paths (see Neisch et al., Figure 3) from an input of the switching network to an output of the switching network, wherein each of the plurality of electrical paths is representative of a connection of one of the testing devices to one of the I/O ports of the DUT (see Neisch et al., column 3 lines 22-32); receiving one or more commands, wherein each of the commands uniquely specifies an electrical path connecting a particular testing device to a particular I/O port of the DUT (see Neisch et al., column 4 line 67 – column 5 line 2); and, for each of the one or more commands, comparing the command to the switching network map so as to identify a corresponding electrical path through the switching network (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 2-10), and implementing the corresponding electrical path associated with the command through the switching network (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 10-15); and, sequentially implementing the electrical paths corresponding to the one or more commands in a predetermined order (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 15-19).

Referring to claim 2, Neisch et al. teaches assigning a unique path name to each of the electrical paths, such that each command specifies a particular electrical path via the path name (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 2-10).

Referring to claim 3, Neisch et al. discloses implementing the electrical paths associated with the one or more commands through the switching network in an order corresponding to a chronological order of the one or more commands (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 15-17).

Referring to claim 5, Neisch et al. teaches programming a computer system to issue the commands in the predetermined order (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 15-17).

Referring to claim 7, Neisch et al. discloses associating each of the electrical paths with a name that is (i) descriptive of the path and (ii) related to the DUT (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 2-10).

Referring to claim 8, Neisch et al. teaches a method of sequentially connecting one or more testing devices to I/O ports of a DUT through a switching network, so as to execute a predetermined testing procedure associated with the DUT (see Neisch et al., column 3 lines 17-26), comprising: a switching network map defining one or more connections within the switching network necessary to implement each of a plurality of electrical paths (see Neisch et al., Figure 3) from an input of the switching network to an output of the switching network, wherein each of the plurality of electrical paths is representative of a connection of one of the testing devices to one of the I/O ports of the

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DUT (see Neisch et al., column 3 lines 22-32); a controller for (i) receiving one or more commands, wherein each of the commands uniquely specifies an electrical path connecting a particular testing device to a particular I/O port of the DUT (see Neisch et al., column 4 line 67 – column 5 line 2), (ii) comparing each of the commands to the switching network map so as to identify a corresponding electrical path through the switching network, and implementing the corresponding electrical path associated with the command through the switching network (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 2-10), and (iii) sequentially implementing the electrical paths corresponding to the one or more commands in a predetermined order (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 15-19).

Referring to claim 9, Neisch et al. discloses the switching network includes at least two sub-networks electrically coupled so as to form the plurality of electrical paths (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 26-51 and Figure 3).

Referring to claim 10, Neisch et al. teaches sub-networks include an SCM (see Neisch et al., column 3 lines 47-48, i.e. software configuration storage element 91) and a DUT board (see column 3 lines 43-47, i.e. Interface Test Adapter 23).

Referring to claim 11, Neisch et al. discloses each of said one or more commands includes a pin name that is (i) descriptive of the path and (ii) related to the DUT (see Neisch et al., column 5 lines 2-10).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neisch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,319) in view of Mogi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,810,958).

Referring to claim 4, Neisch et al. teaches all the features of the claimed invention except for sequentially implementing the electrical paths further includes opening and closing selected switching devices within the switching network.

Yang discloses opening and closing selected switching devices within the switching network (see Yang, column 3 lines 47-52 and Figure 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Neisch et al. to include the teachings of Yang, because opening and closing switches to select a signal path improves test time and accuracy (see Yang, column 2 lines 28-37).

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Neisch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,269,319) in view of Yang (U.S. Patent No. 6,098,027).

Referring to claim 6, Neisch et al. teaches all the features of the claimed invention except for connecting one or more testing devices to multiple DUT sites via the switching network.

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Mogi et al. teaches connecting one or more testing devices to multiple DUT sites via the switching network (see Mogi et al., column 2 line 62 – column 3 line 15).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Neisch et al. to include the teachings of Mogi et al., because testing multiple devices with one switching network allows the skilled artisan to centralize and standardize tests in order to achieve an integrated testing system (see Mogi et al., column 2 lines 19-24).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

(a) Zwan et al. discloses a communication line test apparatus with an improved graphical user interface.

(b) Morgan discloses a programmable voltage divider and method for testing the impedance of a programmable element.

(c) Sample et al. teaches a hardware logic emulation system.

(d) Jenkins et al. discloses a test definition tool.

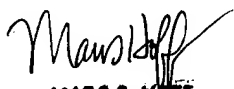
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Kate B Baran whose telephone number is (703) 305-4474. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S Hoff can be reached on (703) 308-1677. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

MKB
November 25, 2002


- MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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